brought much devastation on both sides of the sea.

The Scandinavians, meanwhile, had been converted to Christianity and had achieved a kind of national unity while the Finns were still divided into tribes hostile to each other. Under those circumstances, Sweden gradually acquired a foothold in Finland, and the conversion of the Finns to Christianity took place at the same time. The conquest of Finland long has been said to have been completed during three crusades, undertaken in 1155, 1238, and 1293, led by Swedish kings and commanders and resulting in the conversion and submission of the Finns, the Tavastians and the Karelians. However, according to modern historical investigation, the conquest of Finland came about much

175 more slowly, the Swedes taking advantage of
●177
177 the continued internal animosity between the Finnish tribes. The religious conversion took place very gradually, too. Christianity had its first stronghold among the Swedish settlers, who had immigrated to Åland and to the adjoining archipelago and coastal areas, and from them the new doctrine spread among their Finnish neighbors. The Apostle of Finland was St. Henry, archbishop of Upsala and an Anglo-Saxon by birth, who preached and baptized throughout southwestern Finland until he was killed by a pagan farmer and chieftain, Lalli, who resented the interference of a "foreigner." [173] Lalli has sometimes been elevated to the role of the first representative of the first Finnish national spirit, but he is more or less a mythical figure

mythical figure. St. Henry, on the other hand, is a historical figure, and no doubt suffered the death of a martyr during his missionary excursions. He became the patron saint of Finland, and several churches were built to commemorate his deeds.

The conversion was carried on among the other tribes by monks and native missionaries, but in distant regions paganism prevailed until the days of the reformation. There is some indication that the first attempts to convert the Finns came from the East, from the Greek Catholic Church; for instance, words like cross, Bible, pagan, and priest have been taken into Finnish from a Slavic language, but this Eastern influence soon waned. At the beginning of the thirteenth century the whole of Russia, except

346 cathedral in Turku, built in the thirteenth century and surely one of the most beautiful churches in the north of Europe. The tradition of church building has been carried on, and some of the most modern examples of church architecture are to be found in Finland.

794 In addition to churches the congregations[1] build chapels and prayer houses in distant regions of the parishes, and also community centers, homes for the old and disabled, etc. On the other hand, there are no schools operated by the Church except for the training of its social workers, deacons and deasonesses and its Sunday school teachers. For the training of the deaconesses, the Church supports four hospitals

797 in different parts of the country. It also is active in missionary work in South Africa, China (until recently), Japan and Palestine, and has

[1] [i.e: Greek Catholic -- Analyst]

797 missionary centers and churches working among the Finnish sailors and emigrants in various parts of the world.

795 659 The Church of Finland has a position midway between an established and a free Church. The highest administrative authority belongs by law to the President of the Republic and to the State government, but at the same time the Church has considerable powers of self government, much more so than the Lutheran churches in neighboring Scandinavia. Legislative power is exercised by the Church Assembly, which has 115 representatives, the majority of them laymen. The laws passed by the Assembly must be ratified by the Diet, which can either accept or reject them, but which is not entitled to make any alterations. The highest administrative organs for the church are the Enlarged Bishops'